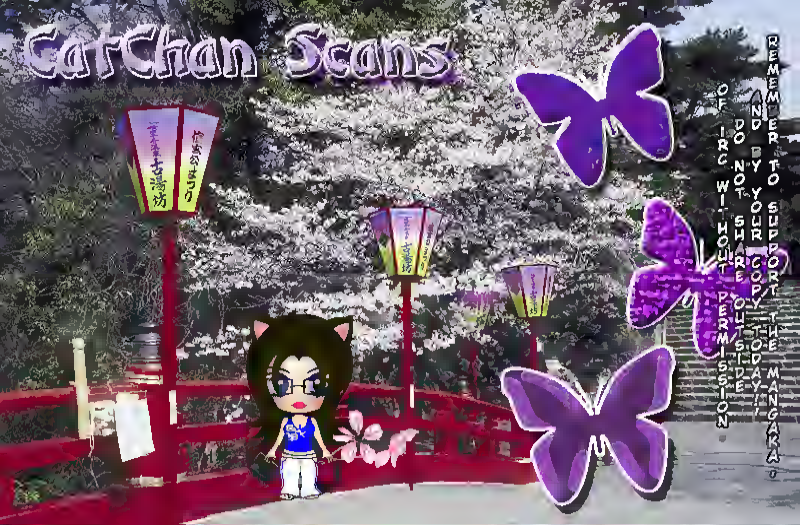
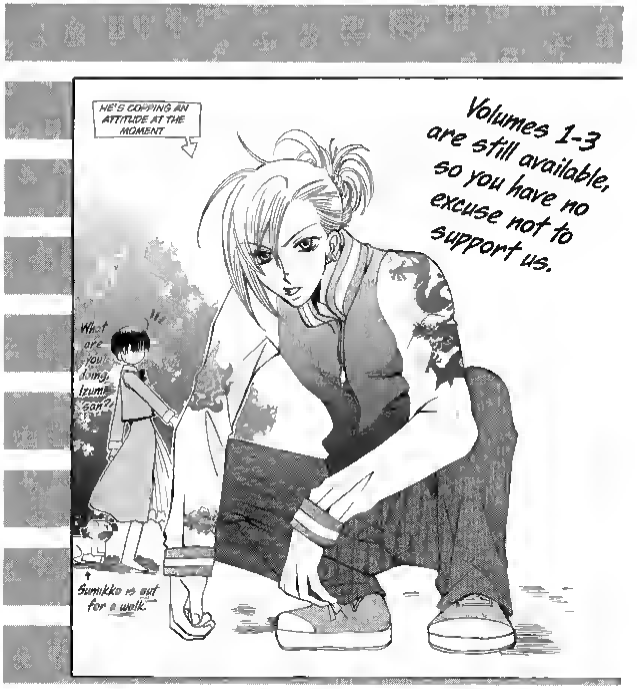

CatChan Scans
REMEMBER TO SUPPORT THE MANGAKA
AND BUY YOUR COPY OF THE GOD DAMN
DO NOT SHARE OUTSIDE OF IRC WITHOUT PERMISSION

4
TENSHI JA NAI!!
I'm No Angel!
Story & Art by
Takako Shigematsu


HE'S COPPING AN ATTITUDE AT THE MOMENT.
Volumes 1-3 are still available, so you have no excuse not to support us.
What are you doing, Izumi-san?
Sumikko is out for a walk.

TENSHI JA NAI!

TENSHI JA NAI!

I'm No Angel!

Volume 4

Story and Art by
Takako Shigematsu

go!comi

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A Go! Comi manga

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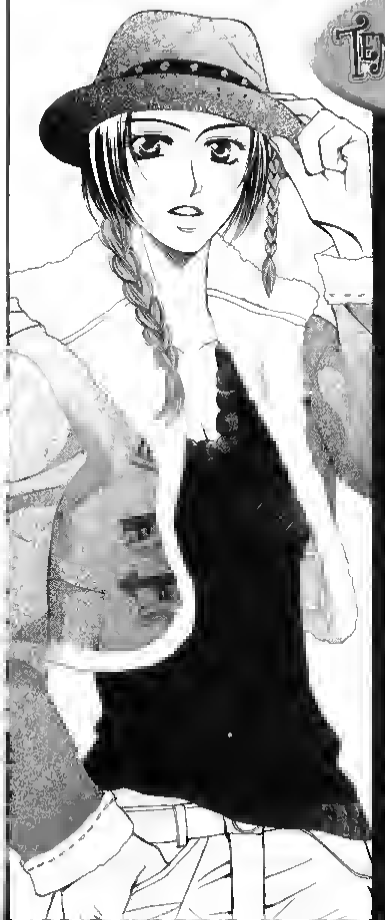

TENSHI JA NAI!

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VOL. 4

Concerning Honorifics

At Go! Comi, we do our best to ensure that our translations read seamlessly in English while respecting the original Japanese language and culture. To this end, the original honorifics (the suffixes found at the end of characters' names) remain intact. In Japan, where politeness and formality are more integrated into every aspect of the language, honorifics give a better understanding of character relationships. They can be used to indicate both respect and affection. Whether a person addresses someone by first name or last name also indicates how close their relationship is.

Here are some of the honorifics you might encounter in reading this book:

-san: This is the most common and neutral of honorifics. The polite way to address someone you're not on close terms with is to use "-san." It's kind of like Mr. or Ms., except you can use "-san" with first names as easily as family names.

-chan: Used for friendly familiarity, mostly applied towards young girls. "-chan" also carries a connotation of cuteness with it, so it is frequently used with nicknames towards both boys and girls (such as "Na-chan" for "Natsu").

-kun: Like "-chan," it's an informal suffix for friends and classmates, only "-kun" is usually associated with boys. It can also be used in a professional environment by someone addressing a subordinate.

-sama: Indicates a great deal of respect or admiration.

Sempai: In school, "sempai" is used to refer to an upperclassman or club leader. It can also be used in the workplace by a new employee to address a mentor or staff member with seniority.

Sensei: Teachers, doctors, writers or any master of a trade are referred to as "sensei." When addressing a manga creator, the polite thing to do is attach "-sensei" to the manga-ka's name (as in Shigematsu-sensei).

Onii: This is the more casual term for an older brother. Usually you'll see it with an honorific attached, such as "onii-chan."

Onee: The casual term for older sister, it's used like "onii" with honorifics.

[blank]: Not using an honorific when addressing someone indicates that the speaker has permission to speak intimately with the other person. This relationship is usually reserved for close friends and family.

Wall of Memories

A New School

When her mom and step dad move to France, Hikaru transfers to her mother's alma mater the prestigious Seika Academy an all girls finishing school.

Childhood memories

When she was seven years old, Hikaru modeled in a series of ads. Her jealous classmates picked on her relentlessly so now Hikaru's greatest wish is to be left alone.

BLACKMAIL!!!

To keep Hikaru quiet and in order to enlist her help, Izumi and Yasukuni blackmail Hikaru with naked photos.

She's a GUY!?

Hikaru discovers that her roommate Izumi, is actually a guy!

Hikaru turns out to be a blessing in disguise for Izumi. Having a female conspirator by his side helps him maintain his cover in the trickiest circumstances.

Izumi's Confidant

When Fans Attack!

It's not easy being a celebrity on campus. Half the students worship Izumi, the other half resent her. And Hikaru's stuck in the middle!

A Shocking Past

After being betrayed and left for broke Izumi's father attempted to commit suicide but ended up in a coma. Now Izumi has to work as a model to pay off his dad's medical bills.

Hikaru Takabayashi

The reluctant star of the series. Hikaru wants nothing more than to be left alone, but ever since she transferred to the prestigious Seika Academy, she's been stuck in the spotlight. Being roommates with a cross-dressing pop idol is bad enough, but now Izumi is blackmailing her into helping with his modeling job. Will Hikaru ever catch a break?

Izumi Kido

Izumi is one of the hottest new female pop idols in Japan. The only problem is, she's a guy! Only two people know his secret—Yasukuni, his bodyguard and childhood friend, and Akizuki, his manager. When Hikaru finds out Izumi blackmails her into helping him maintain his secret. Izumi needs the modeling money to pay off his father's medical bills.

Yasukuni Inukai

Yasukuni is fiercely loyal to Izumi. A bastard child disowned by his father, Izumi is the only family he has. Now that Hikaru has won his trust, he's taken to looking out for her as well. Much of his past remains a mystery, such as why he's missing his right eye. He does double duty as the school janitor so he can always be close to Izumi.

SUMIKKO

Hikaru's best friend in the world. Yasukuni takes care of her while Hikaru's at school.

Momochi

Star reporter for the school paper. Momochi is always on the lookout for gossip!

Akizuki

President of the Akizuki Talent Agency and Izumi's manager.

Cast of Characters

TENSHI JA NAI!!

I'm No Angel!

Hello to all of you who may be reading this series for the first time, and also to all of my regular readers! Thank you for picking up Tenshi Ja Nai!! volume 4. I hope that you enjoy reading it, and that you'll like it enough to come back...

--Takako Shigematsu
October 25, 2004

天使じゃない!!

SCENE 16

I..
THANK YOU
I'VE ALWAYS LIKED YOU, SINCE WE FIRST MET..
nod
I FEEL LIKE I'M DREAMING..

I KEPT SAYING YOU WERE JUST MY STUDENT..
ALL THIS TIME I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CONVINCE MYSELF..
I KNOW HEARING THAT HURT YOU AND I'M SORRY..
OH, GOSH..!
I CAN ONLY PRAY YOUR FEELINGS FOR ME HAVEN'T CHANGED..
I'M SO EXCITED.. I CAN'T FIND THE WORDS..
NOD

I'M TOTALLY EMBARRASSED. I CAN'T EVEN MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH IZUMI-SAN...
OH Y'SEE UMM
KI-KI
KI-KI
DID HE FLIP OUT ON YOU?
AYASE SEEMED PRETTY UPSET ABOUT THE WHOLE THING
HUH?
OH, NO... HE'S FINE EVERYTHING'S OKAY
SO, WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN YOU AND AYASE AFTER I LEFT?
SENSEI... WAS REALLY SWEET TO ME
BLUSH
FIDGET
TWITCH

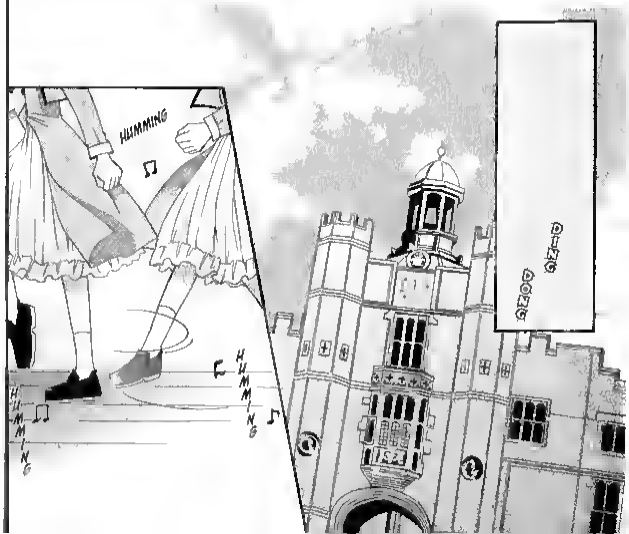
chirp.
chirp.
CREAK...
QUIET
I HOPE IZUMI-SAN ISN'T AWAKE YET...
FREEZE-
WELL, HELLO THERE.
WOOF
Welcome home.
H-HELLO, IZUMI-SAN...
Sumikko...
TCSD

WAVE
WAVE
EXCELLENT! FREE AT LAST!!
AH, OKAY SEE YA
YUP! SEE YOU LATER.
Sigh..
SLAM...
FAINT
FAINT
WOOF
WOOF
WERE YOU A GOOD GIRL WHILE I WAS GONE, SUMIKKO?
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT I'M SENSEI'S GIRLFRIEND NOW!!
ROLL
I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE WHAT HAPPENED, SUMIKKO!!
GRIM...
SIGH...
SIGH...
HIKARU
I ONLY SPENT THE NIGHT AT THE HOTEL BECAUSE IT WAS TOO LATE TO COME HOME...
BUT, YOU KNOW, I'M SUPPOSED TO HELP YOU WITH YOUR SHOOT TODAY...
SLIDE
Really?
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU STAY WITH HIM LONGER?
SMILE
YOU DON'T NEED TO FOLLOW ME AROUND TODAY
ACTUALLY, I'M NOT GOING TO NEED YOUR HELP FOR A WHILE YASUKUNI HAS IT COVERED
IS THAT SO?
HUH?

I WONDER... WHAT QUALIFIES AS INTIMATE AND WHAT'S OTHERWISE ACCEPTABLE...?
I... I CAN'T ASK HIM!!
Is kissing okay?
WE SHOULD GET SOME SLEEP I'LL TAKE THE COUCH
YOU SLEEP ON THE BED
YEEEE
HOO
HOO
YEEEE
HOO
YEEEE

OF COURSE... WE HAVE TO KEEP IT A SECRET...
WE HAVE TO ACT NORMAL WHEN WE'RE AT SCHOOL
I CAN'T MIX MY JOB AND MY PRIVATE LIFE... I HOPE YOU'LL UNDERSTAND.
AHEM!!
YOU NEED TO GRADUATE.
BEFORE WE CAN BE TRULY INTIMATE TOGETHER
HUH?
UMM... EVEN WHEN WE'RE ALONE...?

I KNOW
BECAUSE OF THIS.. I CAN'T HAVE HER HANGING AROUND


HUMMING
HUMMING
HUMMING
DING DONG

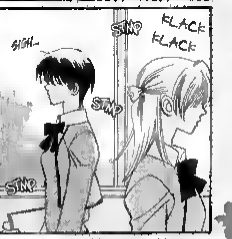
THAT DISGUSTING PERVERT!!

Huh.
SERIOUSLY.
HE'S SUCH A STRAIGHT-LACED PERSON IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE
Dressing Room A
Izumi Kido-sama
THEM BECOMING AN ITEM COULD REALLY COMPLICATE THINGS
IF HIKARU-SAN IS IN LOVE, WILL SHE STILL KEEP OUR SECRET SAFE
OR WILL HIDING SOMETHING FROM AYASE MAKE HER FEEL TOO GUILTY?

AH— SENSEI...
SECRETS, SECRETS
STARE
SO, BY THE WAY... HOW'S IZUMI-SAN DOING LATELY?
eh?
TAKABAYASHI-SAN...DO YOU KNOW WHAT SHE'S UP TO?
FROM WHAT I CAN TELL, HER SCHEDULE IS BUSIER THAN EVER
NO—

どきっ
GASP
LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S HAVING A GOOD DAY!
HUH?!

HUMMING
SWIVEL
HUMMING


SIGH...
SIGH
FLACK FLACK
SIGH
SIGH

GRIN
HMM HMM
HMMM
HMMM

SHK
M... MOMO-CHI?
SHK
SHK
ME? HAVING A GOOD DAY? NO, NOT REALLY.
C'MON! DON'T HOLD OUT ON ME!

HOW WAS WORK?
SO SO
IS THERE ANYTHING I CAN HELP YOU WITH?
YOU LOOK ABSOLUTELY EXHAUSTED.
I TOLD YOU, I'M FINE
SST
SURE, BUT, YOU'D HAVE IT EASIER IF YOU LET ME LEND A HAND--
I'M DOING JUST FINE WITHOUT YOU.
I MEAN IT SERIOUSLY.

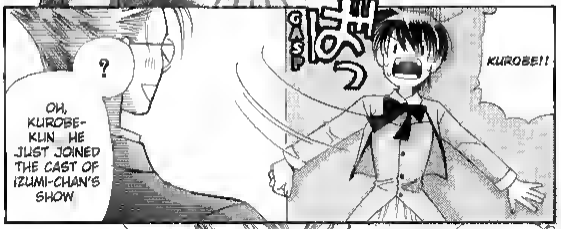
NOW THAT I THINK OF IT, IT'S BEEN A WEEK...
...SINCE THE LAST TIME IZUMI-SAN ASKED ME TO HELP OUT...
CREAK
HI, IZUMI-SAN
SIGH
HIKARU YOU'RE STILL AWAKE

I'M SORRY. YOU WERE THE ONLY PERSON I COULD ASK FOR HELP
LUCKY FOR YOU I HAD TO DROP BY HERE ANYWAY, BUT STILL
KLACK
KLACK
W B S
I'LL ADMIT, I WAS A LITTLE SURPRISED WHEN YOU ASKED TO TOUR THE TV NETWORK OUT OF THE BLUE LIKE THAT
MUMBLE
...BECAUSE HE SEEMED SO TIRED
MUMBLE
I OFFERED TO HELP HIM OUT...
LATELY, IZUMI-SAN HAS BEEN ACTING WEIRD
SEETH
SEETH
WHICH IS STUPID BECAUSE HE'S BEEN TOTALLY TAKING ADVANTAGE OF ME!!
ANNOYED
SEE YOU IN THE MORNING.
CLICK
STAGGER
STAGGER
YEP.
AH, IS THAT SO?
...
ZZZ
HE'S GOT ME SO ANNOYED, I CAN'T EVEN SLEEP!

NOW I REALLY DON'T KNOW WHY HE DIDN'T ASK ME TO RUN INTERFERENCE...
KUROBE-SAN WAS ALL OVER IZUMI-SAN DURING THE SUMMER SHOOT.

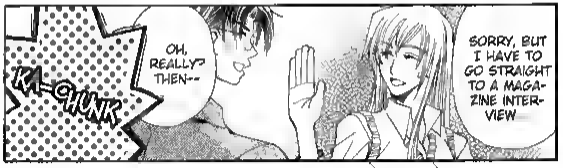
LET'S GO OUT AND GET A CUP OF TEA OR SOMETHING.
IZUMI-CHAAAN!! I JUST GOT OUT OF MY MEETING, TOO!
TMP TMP TMP
CRAP!
SIGH
SHUT
SEE YOU NEXT WEEK, IZUMI-CHAN
BYE

IZUMI-CHAN IS IN THIS CONFERENCE ROOM OVER HERE. THEY'RE HAVING A MEETING ABOUT HER SERIES.
IT'S HIM!!
And then he said...
Are you serious?


GASP
KUROBE!!
?
OH, KUROBE-KUN. HE JUST JOINED THE CAST OF IZUMI-CHAN'S SHOW.

Smile
Smile
THAT GHOST STORY THEY DID GOT KILLER RATINGS, SO...
WE CALLED KUROBE-KUN, AND THE DIRECTOR, NANJO, BACK FOR MORE
THAT MUST BE WHY IZUMI-SAN HAS BEEN SO EXHAUSTED LATELY!

ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROLL
ROL--
I'M HAPPY TO BE WORKING WITH YOU AGAIN, SO LET'S CELEBRATE
SO ABOUT THAT TEA, LET'S SCHEDULE IT FOR AFTER YOUR INTERVIEW THEN



*See Translator's Notes

WHY DID YOU COME HERE? I TOLD YOU I DON'T NEED YOU ANYMORE...
IT MIGHT HAVE BAILED ME OUT, BUT...
BUT..
CLICK...
SIGH
IF KUROBE-SAN IS GOING TO BE HANGING AROUND IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF I WAS HERE TOO.
HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT!?
IZUMI-SAMA... I'LL GO GET THE CAR.
OKAY..

EXIT
HIKARU-SAN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
GRAB
!!
SO... YOU WERE THE ONE WHO BOWLED THE GIGANTIC BALL.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE PART OF MY RUSE...
IF YOU EVER SLIPPED UP AND TOLD, MY CAREER WOULD BE RUINED...
...YOU'LL HAVE TO KEEP LYING TO AYASE
PLUS, YOU'VE BEEN LIVING WITH A MAN...
...AND IF AYASE FOUND OUT, HE MIGHT SEE YOU DIFFERENTLY
...BUT I DON'T NEED YOUR HELP ANYMORE
THANK YOU FOR EVERYTHING YOU'VE DONE FOR ME...

HUH?
IF YOU'RE GOING TO DATE AYASE...
...WE'LL BE BETTER OFF LIVING SEPARATE LIVES...

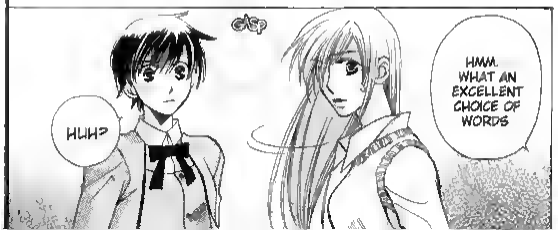
HIKARU.
SIGH...
AGAIN...
AH, KUROBE-SAN
OH! IZUMI-CHAN, ARE YOU OKAY?
STAGGER
!?
RUSH
WAIT, IZUMI-CHAN.
ER, I HAVE TO GO NOW
4
5

--AND I DON'T KNOW WHY--
I SHOULD BE HAPPY ABOUT THIS, RIGHT?
THIS WAY I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT STANDING OUT ANYMORE AND ONCE I BECOME A SOPHOMORE...
I CAN SWITCH DORMS AND GET A NEW ROOMMATE.
THEN MY RELATIONSHIP WITH IZUMI-SAN AND YASUKUNI-SAN WILL FINALLY END
I'M NOT HAPPY ABOUT THIS AT ALL!
BUT FOR SOME REASON--

YARARARA!
SMOOOCH
WAH!
STOP IT, THAT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT!
Hikaru-chan?
Hi...

GASP
IZUMI-CHAN!!
THANK GOOD-NESS
YOU HAD ME WORRIED I THOUGHT YOU WERE GOING TO PASS OUT!
CRAP!
GRIP
SHINE SHINE
IZUMI-CHAN
THANK YOU, KUROBE-SAN
...but please put me down.
NO, DON'T! I'M JUST A LITTLE TIRED THAT'S ALL!!
RUSTLE
JUST HANG ON. I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE DOCTOR
RUSTLE

SIGH.
THEN I'LL BECOME AN "ACTRESS."


GASP
HUH?
HMM. WHAT AN EXCELLENT CHOICE OF WORDS

YOU CAN'T GET BY WITHOUT ME
HMPH
WHAT DID I TELL YOU?

I CAN DO THIS
TURN
EVEN IF IT MEANS LYING TO SENSEI
YOU CAN TRUST ME I SWEAR I'LL KEEP ALL OF YOUR SECRETS.
YOU REALIZE THAT IT COULD REQUIRE SOME PROFESSIONAL-GRADE ACTING SKILLS?

TENSHI JA NAI!
天使じゃない!!
SCENE 17

BEEP
I WANT YOU TO PLAY KUROBE-KUN'S SISTER FOR ME
HIKARU-CHAN
DIRECTOR NANJO!?
You just got off the elevator?
WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE TALKING ABOUT!!?
End of Scene 16

WHY COULDN'T THAT... DIRECTOR KEEP HIS MOUTH SHUT?
Urugh...
THE SHOW'S WRITER AND I HAVE BEEN TALKING ABOUT SHAKING UP THE CAST A BIT...
NEVER!! Hikaru
THERE'S NO WAY I CAN ACT IN A TV DRAMA! IT'S IM-POSSIBLE!!
YOU'D BE PERFECT TO PLAY KUROBE'S SISTER.
HIKARU-CHAN

HEY, HEY...
THIS IS A ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME CHANCE, HIKARU-CHAN
THERE'S NO WAY I'M GOING TO DO THIS!
BU BUT...
BESIDES, YOU'LL BE WITH IZUMI-CHAN ON A DAILY BASIS, SO ALL THE BETTER TO PROTECT "HER" SECRET...

Yuichi Akizuki (33 years old)
Born on September 9
Blood type is O
He shouldn't be trusted easily, because he's a cunning fellow. During the night, he's popular in the red-light districts. It's always hard to tell what he's up to. Izumi doesn't like him very much. He's a hedonist.

IT'S ALREADY TOUGH ENOUGH KEEPING THE SECRET FROM AYASE
WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO ADD MORE HEADACHES ON TOP OF IT?
HE'S RIGHT. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR ANY MORE TROUBLE...
YOU HAVE TO SAY NO.

HUH?
SST
LISTEN WHY DON'T YOU SLEEP ON IT?
STUPID DIREC-TOR!
Ch-ching ♪
And we'll discuss my cut, too...
IN THE MEANTIME, I'LL TALK TO YOUR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL, JUST TO BE ON THE SAFE SIDE ♡
SIGH
IZUMI-SAN...
WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
WAIT— MR. AKIZUKI—
SHUT

I GUESS IZUMI-SAN WON'T NEED ANY MADELEINES FROM ME AFTER ALL...
LUCA
LNGH
A PILE OF GIFTS!
WE WERE WONDERING IF YOU COULD GIVE THIS TO IZUMI-SAMA
For Izumi-
MINE, TOO
AH... IZUMI-SAN... HE'S HOME FROM WORK ALREADY...?
click
For Izumi-sama
...THIS IS SO HEAVY
Given more presents for Izumi on the way home.

MAPLE-FLAVORED MADELEINES
"THERE ARE ALSO MADELEINES WITH LESS SUGAR. I MADE FOR SUMIKA."
Once they are baked and still hot, put maple syrup on top of the Madeleines.
Madeleines
(Batch of 8)
2 eggs
1/3 cup Sugar
1/2 cup Flour
1/2 tsp. Baking Powder
1 Stick Butter
2-1/2 tbs. Honey
I'LL TAKE SOME FOR SENSEI AND IZUMI-SAN
WELL-DONE
EXCITED
EXCITED
EXCUSE ME, TAKABAYASHI-SAN
IN COOKING CLASS
I HAVE TO KEEP IZUMI-SAN'S SECRET
AND I CAN'T TELL ANYONE ABOUT MY RELATIONSHIP WITH SENSEI EITHER...

I DON'T WANT TO EAT STUFF BAKED BY PEOPLE I DON'T EVEN KNOW...
I WANT THE TREATS YOU MADE
HEY, YOU MADE MADELEINES, TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
NAH, NOTHING BIG.
I TOLD YOU THAT I'D KEEP HELPING. DIDN'T I?
IF YOU WERE TALKING ABOUT SOMETHING WORK-RELATED, I THINK I SHOULD HEAR ABOUT IT, TOO
WAIT! DON'T CHANGE THE SUBJECT.
YEP MINE CAME OUT PRETTY GOOD.

WHY..?
YOU ALWAYS TOLD ME WHAT WAS GOING ON BEFORE
..

BUT--
...NO, THINGS JUST WON'T BE THE SAME NO MATTER WHAT SHE SAYS.
GASP

WHAT'S GOING ON? ARE YOU GUYS TALKING ABOUT WORK?
HEY... I'M HOME...
?

WH-WHAT'S THE MATTER? DID SOMETHING BAD HAPPEN AT THE STUDIO?
...
abriel 3

HERE YOU GO
I UNDERSTAND
I'M SORRY
I, UH...
I HAVE TO GO DROP OFF SOME MADELEINES FOR SENSEI, TOO, SO...
OH, THAT'S RIGHT...
tmp
tmp

You see
You see
IF YOU'RE GONNA KEEP SECRETS, YOU CAN'T HAVE MY MADELEINES
SQUEEZE
SIGH
I'M TIRED...
PLEASE DON'T GIVE ME A HARD TIME, HIKARU
...

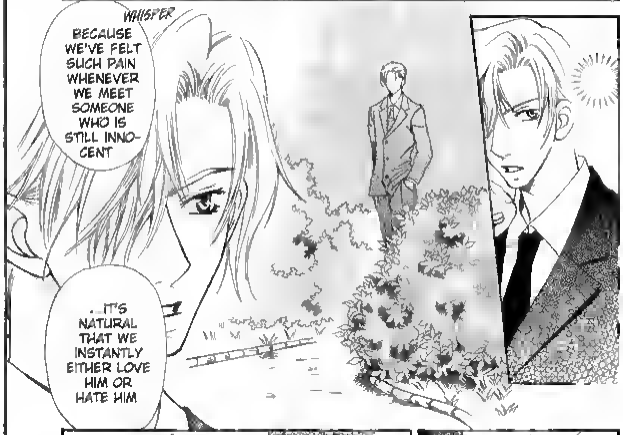
TAKE IT EASY NO ONE'S GOING TO TAKE IT AWAY FROM YOU, SUMIKKO
munch munch
GULP
GULP
SNIFF
SNIFF
GULP
GULP
SIGH...
IF THAT'S THE WORST THING YOU HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT I ENVY YOU...
YASU-KUNI-SAN!
YOU KNOW THAT'S NOT THE CASE
I WONDER IF... IZUMI-SAN DOESN'T TRUST ME ANYMORE...

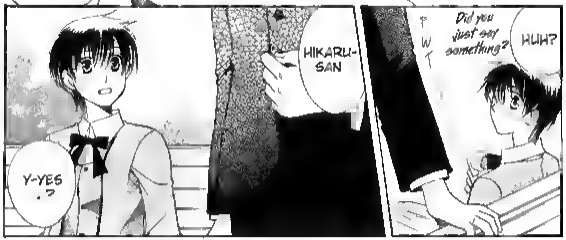
SLAM
I DON'T KNOW HOW...
...TO DEAL WITH HER ANYMORE...
IZUMI-SAMA
GRIP

I JUST... REMEMBERED...
A LONG TIME AGO...
I FEEL LIKE... I NO LONGER BELONG HERE...
AH HA HA HA
AH HA
Eeek!
GOOD MORNING

SIGH
HE'D KILL ME FOR TELLING YOU BUT HE DOESN'T WANT TO BURDEN YOU
HUH?
IZUMI-SAMA IS ONLY TRYING TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM YOU BECAUSE HE THINKS IT'S WHAT'S BEST FOR YOU.
IT'S BECAUSE YOU'RE IMPORTANT TO HIM...
THAT HE'S PUTTING YOUR BEST INTERESTS AHEAD OF EVERYTHING.
THAT MEANS SPENDING LESS TIME TOGETHER.
TO THINK IZUMI-SAN FEELS HE'S BURDENING ME.
IT BREAKS MY HEART.

WE'VE BOTH HAD EXPERIENCE WITH SCHOOL BULLIES.
Do you want some of this?
Sure, thanks.
Give me some, too.
Sumikko wants some.


WHISPER
BECAUSE WE'VE FELT SUCH PAIN WHENEVER WE MEET SOMEONE WHO IS STILL INNOCENT
...IT'S NATURAL THAT WE INSTANTLY EITHER LOVE HIM OR HATE HIM


HIKARU-SAN
Y-YES.?
T W T
Did you just say something?
HUH?

BACK WHEN I FELT LIKE AN OUTSIDER IN MY OWN CLASS BECAUSE THE OTHER KIDS OSTRACIZED ME

I'VE ALSO GONE THROUGH A SIMILAR SITUATION MYSELF.
I KNOW. I UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU MEAN

TAKA-BAYA-SHI?
OH, HEH... IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.
DIRECTOR NANJO WAS JOKING AROUND AND HE ASKED IF I'D BE INTERESTED IN PLAYING A NEW ROLE ON A TELEVISION DRAMA

TV DRAMA?

SIGH
PHEW... I KNOW HOW HE FEELS ABOUT PEOPLE IN THE ENTERTAINMENT INDUSTRY.

I TURNED HIM DOWN, OF COURSE
I'd never do something like that.
I SEE

BY THE WAY, DIDN'T YOU HAVE A COOKING CLASS TODAY?
UH-HUH WE LEARNED HOW TO MAKE MADE-LEINES.

SENSEI!!

REGARDING TAKING THE PART OF THE SISTER ON THE SHOW... IT'S YOUR DECISION.
DON'T LET ANY-ONE TELL YOU WHAT TO DO

YASU-KUNI-SAN...?

THE SISTER? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
YUKISU

TAKA-BAYA-SHI?
OH, HEH... IT'S NOTHING, REALLY.
DIRECTOR NANJO WAS JOKING AROUND AND HE ASKED IF I'D BE INTERESTED IN PLAYING A NEW ROLE ON A TELEVISION DRAMA

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BY THE WAY DIDN'T YOU HAVE A COOKING CLASS TODAY?
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I TURNED HIM DOWN, OF COURSE
I'd never do something like that.
I SEE

SENSEI!!

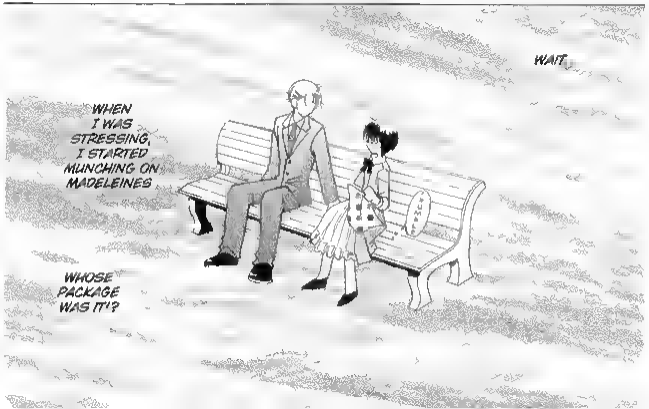
REGARDING TAKING THE PART OF THE SISTER ON THE SHOW IT'S YOUR DECISION
DON'T LET ANY-ONE TELL YOU WHAT TO DO
YASU-KUNI-SAN...?

THE SISTER? WHAT'S HE TALKING ABOUT?
YAWN

SOB
SOB
SOB
I'M SORRY BUT I ACCIDENTALLY ATE THE MADELEINES THAT I MEANT TO GIVE TO YOU
TOUCH
I'M SORRY, I PROMISE I'LL MAKE SOME MORE JUST FOR YOU.

I WAS REALLY HOPING TO SAMPLE YOUR BAKING

AND
OH OF COURSE! I MADE SOME ESPECIALLY FOR YOU
FWSH
FWSH

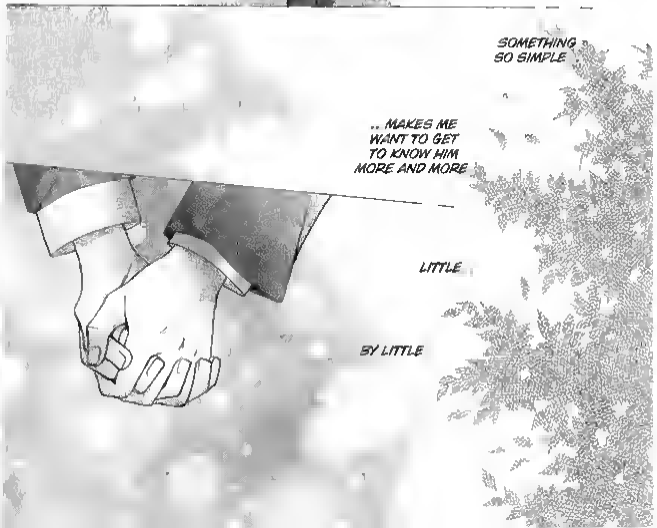

WAIT
WHEN I WAS STRESSING, I STARTED MUNCHING ON MADELEINES
WHOSE PACKAGE WAS IT!?

CHUCKLE
If someone saw us...
TWITCH
SE-SE-SENSE!...
TWITCH
TWITCH
TWITCH
HA HA
DON'T WORRY, NOBODY SAW OUR KISS
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
UH...
I DIDN'T REALIZE YOU WERE SO SHY

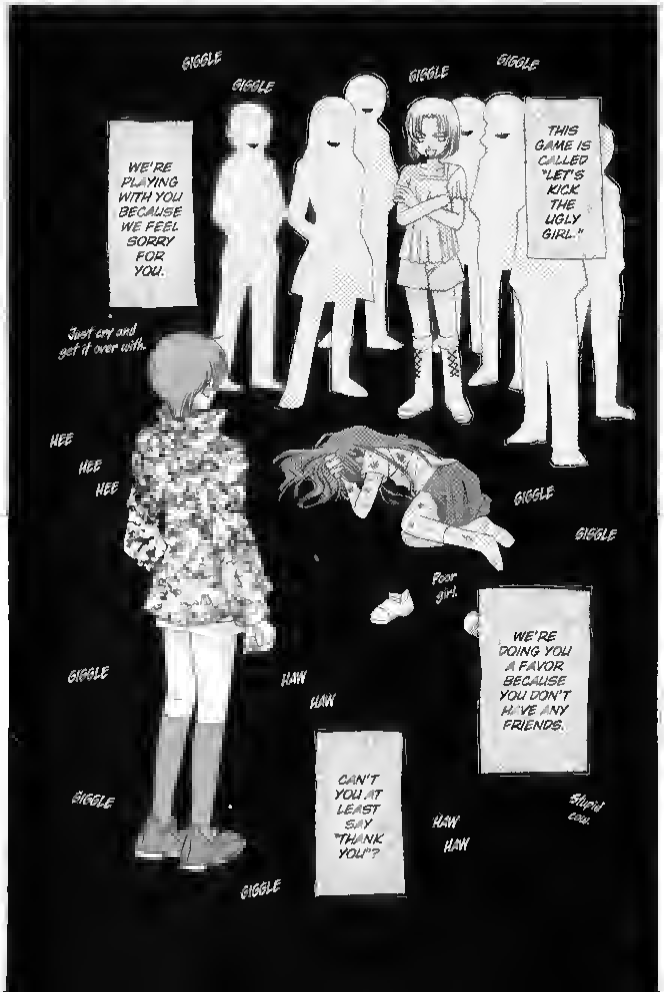
YUM. SWEET

PIECE BY PIECE
I WANT TO FILL MY LIFE WITH SENSE!
WBS
GOOD JOB, IZUMI-CHAN
THANKS VERY MUCH.
GREAT WORK

THAT'S THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVER SEEN HIM LAUGH OUT LOUD
AHEM
YOU'RE RIGHT SORRY..
WELL
WHISPER WHISPER
BUT... YOU WERE THE ONE WHO SAID WE SHOULD MAINTAIN A STUDENT-TEACHER RELATIONSHIP AT SCHOOL
BLUSH


SOMETHING SO SIMPLE
.. MAKES ME WANT TO GET TO KNOW HIM MORE AND MORE
LITTLE
BY LITTLE

IZUMI-SAN!
STMP
I'M COMING WITH YOU I NEED TO TELL THE DIRECTOR THAT I WON'T BE ABLE TO PLAY THAT ROLE
I SEE
WILL WE EVER ACT LIKE HOW WE USED TO ACT TOGETHER?
!
IZUMI-SAN?
You...
AH
GREAT JOB, IZUMI-SAN
SHUT
SLAM
HM, WAIT A MINUTE, IZUMI-SAN.
IZUMI-SAMA IS TRYING TO DISTANCE HIMSELF FROM YOU.
I'M MEETING THE DIRECTOR AND AKIZUKI AFTER THIS.
HIKARU, YOU CAN GO HOME NOW

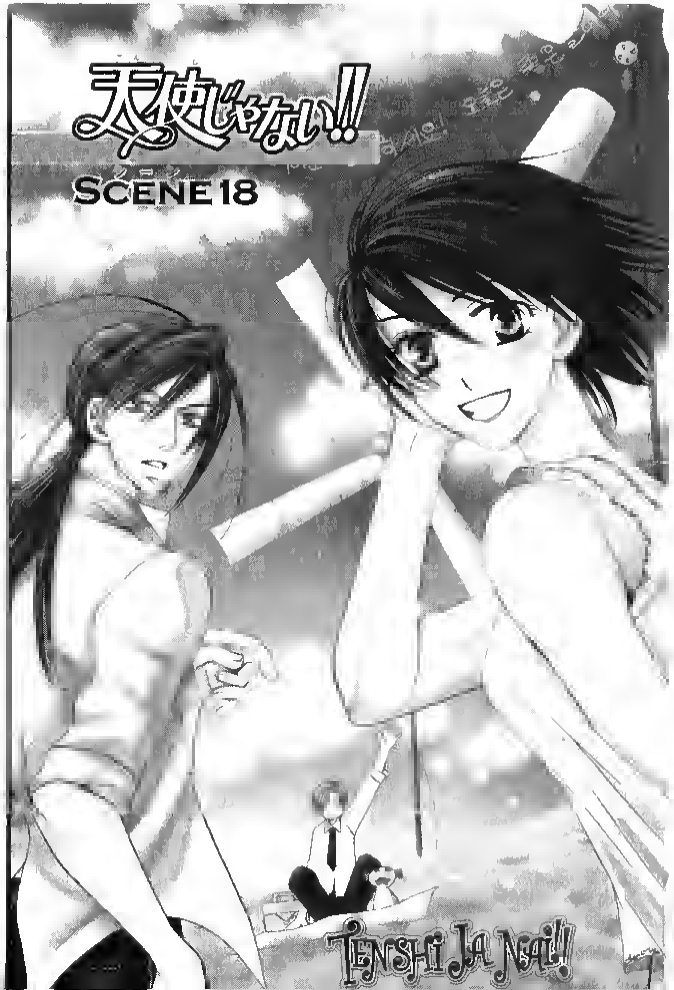

GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
WE'RE PLAYING WITH YOU BECAUSE WE FEEL SORRY FOR YOU.
THIS GAME IS CALLED "LET'S KICK THE UGLY GIRL."
Just cry and get it over with.
HEE
HEE
HEE
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
Poor girl.
WE'RE DOING YOU A FAVOR BECAUSE YOU DON'T HAVE ANY FRIENDS.
GIGGLE
HAW
HAW
CAN'T YOU AT LEAST SAY "THANK YOU"?
GIGGLE
HAW
HAW
Stupid cow.
GIGGLE

I SEE.
I GUESS THE WORD IS OUT ABOUT THE NEW PARTS ON THE SHOW.
THAT MUST BE THE NEW ACTRESS' MANAGER
You have to give us a chance ...
I WONDER IF THAT'S THE GIRL THEY'LL GIVE IT TO INSTEAD OF ME?
LET'S GO.
SURE

SHE MAKES ME WANT TO VOMIT!

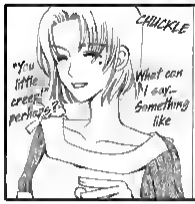
SHE USED TO BULLY ME... AND LAUGH AT ME
HOW DO YOU KNOW YUUKA NAGAHARA?
DAY AFTER DAY, HER AND HER ENTOURAGE OF MEAN GIRLS...
I CAN'T FORGIVE HER!
SHE WAS HORRIBLE TO ME AND DOESN'T EVEN REMEMBER WHO I AM!!
TOO BAD I CAN NEVER FORGET HER!
I DON'T CARE IF IT'S JUST A TINY SCRAP OF PAPER.
...I'LL NEVER LET HER HAVE WHAT SHE WANTS! NEVER!!

FLACK
FLACK
HIKARU...?
THAT GIRL...
...DIDN'T REMEMBER ME AT ALL...


天使じゃない!!
SCENE 18
TENSHI JA NAI!!

CLASP
グイッ
THEN STOP CRYING...
FINE!
...AND GO USE YOUR ACTING SKILLS TO SEND HER PACKING!
End Scene 17

IF ONLY I HAD MY SIGHT..
Kido
IF I DIDN'T EXIST, MY BROTHER'S LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER.
SLAP
AAH !!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ASAKO!?



Yuuka Nagahara (Age 16)
Born on August 21.
Blood type. B
An Izabella type. Well, for some reason, when it comes to a mean girl, the name Izabella always pops into my mind. I wonder why that is...? I wonder if it has anything to do with the influence of the old anime I always watched.

I WAS SO UPSET THAT YUKA FORGOT ABOUT BULLYING ME IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL...
I AGREED TO TAKE THE PART, AFTER ALL
SIGH...
YUUKA NAGAHARA'S AGENT DID SOME HEAVY SCHMOOZING TO MAKE SURE SHE GOT A ROLE
NAGA-HARA
DON'T LET NAGAHARA BEAT YOU! ARE WE CLEAR ON THAT, HIKARU!?
Stay focused
Y-YES, SIR!
COMING
IZUMI-SAMA, YOU'RE WANTED ON THE SET.
KNOCK KNOCK
--AND YASUKUNI
CHAKA LAKA
BOOM CHAKA
BOOM-CHAKA-
THE END
THIS SAMPLE SCENE WAS PLAYED BY IZUMI--
CHAKA CHAKA
THAT WAS, UM, VERY NICE!
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
YOU NEED TO KNOW THE AIKO CHARACTER BETTER THAN SHE DOES
THAT'S THE SCENE THAT WILL LEAD DIRECTLY INTO THE SCENE WITH AIKO. YOU'LL PLAY THE SISTER, AND THE BROTHER WILL BE KUROBE
I-I'm sorry! --
SHAKE
SHAKE
Get serious! Look at Yamakami's ribbon!
WHAT THE HELL, HIKARU? TRY TO SOUND LIKE YOU CARE!

My Current Addictons #1

I'm a DVD junkie...

What can I say... once I decide I like a movie, if I have to work long hours by myself, I'll play the DVD over and over. Lord of the Rings is one of those movies. I like any movie about people learning magic (laugh). Who knows, pretty soon I might memorize all of the lines (from the film, that is)... Perhaps I should call myself a DVD monkey, as opposed to a DVD junkie? △ It's sort of suman-like to do the same thing over and over without getting tired of it. (But that's unfair to monkeys.) Sometimes, I even cry during the same scenes ..maybe that's how I deal with my stress? (sweat)

THANKS.
Oh! IZUMI-SAN
GOOD LUCK
REGARDLESS OF THE REASONS BEHIND IT
IT MAKES ME HAPPY
MY RELATIONSHIP WITH IZUMI-SAN HAD BECOME UNSTABLE LATELY...
...BUT IT FEELS LIKE WE'RE BECOMING FRIENDS AGAIN

*See Translator's Notes

EVEN IF I CAN'T ACT AS WELL AS HE DOES, I STILL WANT TO TRY.
GASHOSA
How does he fake the emotion?
MUMBLE
MUMBLE
IZUMI-SAN'S PERFORMANCES ARE ALWAYS SO GOOD.
WHAA--!?
My purse!?
I DON'T DRINK THIS STUFF, AND NEITHER DOES IZUMI-SAN.
I smell something sweet--
?

KIDO'S SCRIPT? WHY ARE YOU READING THAT...?
NOTHING'S WRONG I COULDN'T SLEEP, SO I WAS JUST READING IZUMI-SAN'S SCRIPT...
IT'S THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT WHAT'S WRONG?
I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO BROADEN MY HORIZONS...
HM.
THIS IS TOUGH

I SEE.
RELIEVED...
BRUSH
STILL, IT'S GETTING LATE
YOU SHOULD HEAD OFF TO BED AND GET SOME REST.
OKAY

What was that screaming all about?
T-TAKABAYASHI?
DEAD SILENCE
I'M ACTING ALL BY MYSELF

SHOOT
THIS IS ALL YUJIKA NAGAHARA'S FAULT
She's filled up with the fighting spirit

You can't blame me for feeling this way!
I'LL NEVER CONCEDE DEFEAT TO THAT WITCH!!
WHAM
S-SENSEI!?
GYAH
CLATTER
Love Attraction

WHAT'S WRONG?
I.
NOTHING... UM...GOOD NIGHT...
SE.
ANYWAY, I HAVE TO CONTINUE WITH MY NIGHTLY ROUNDS...
I...
I LIED TO HIM AGAIN
SQUEEZE
I...
?
SENSE!!!

HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE I HAD THIS POSITIVE OF AN OUTLOOK ON LIFE?

AND SO I CAN LIVE A NORMAL LIFE AND BE WITH SENSEI

ZZZT

ALL THIS ENERGY TO GET REVENGE ON NAGAHARA.

* See Translator's Notes

—THO' I'D NEVER SAY THAT TO HIM

YOU'VE REALLY UPSET HIM HE BELIEVES THAT A MANZAI ARTIST SHOULD ONLY PERFORM MANZAI

SO HOW'S MY EX-MANZAI* PARTNER DOING?

I don't have time for messing up!!

I WANT TO NAIL EVERY TAKE ON THE FIRST TRY!

HIKARU IS STUDYING KUROBE'S KANSAI DIALECT

HE'S BEING STUPID!! HE'S CUTER THAN ME AND HE'S WASTING IT

NO MATTER HOW MANY SECRETS AND LIES THERE ARE BETWEEN US—

—MY LOVE FOR SENSEI

—REMAINS THE MOST HONEST THING IN MY LIFE

SENSEI...

I HOPE YOU CAN FORGIVE ME

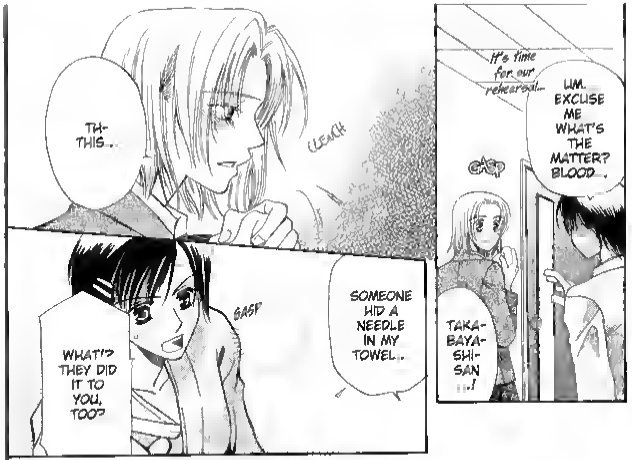
NO WAY.
I'LL TRAIN YOU IF YOU GIVE ME IZUMI-CHAN'S PERSONAL PHOTO-GRAPHS!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
Crisp
JEEZ
I'LL TEACH YOU ALL YOU HAD TO DO WAS ASK
It's too high a price!
NO WAY AS LONG AS YOU'RE BUGGING IZUMI-SAN, YOU'RE TOTALLY OFF-LIMITS
JUST AS I SUSPEC-TED
EH?
WAIT, HIKARU-CHAN! THAT TOWEL
?
STARE
HI HIKARU-CHAN?
IT'S ALL SUCH A SHAME
SPLU
What a strange girl
She's getting away
PANT
PANT
Izumi Kido
WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST SAY YOU WERE TRYING TO LEARN KANSAI DIALECT?
LET ME GO!!
WHY ARE YOU RUNNING AWAY FROM ME!?
PANT
PANT
PANT

I NEVER WANT TO GO BACK...
...TO THE TIME WHEN I WOULD SIT ALONE AND CRY...
IT'S NOTHING REALLY, I'M FINE
BESIDES, I COULDN'T BEAR
...TO LOOK WEAK IN FRONT OF IZUMI-SAN AGAIN...
IZUMI-SAN IS A CONSTANT PILLAR OF STRENGTH
...I WANT TO STAND TALL WITH HIM
...DAY AND NIGHT.
SOMEONE HID A NEEDLE IN IT
DOES IZUMI-CHAN KNOW THAT YOU'RE BEING HARASSED LIKE THIS?
It's not the first time, is it?
...SO IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT SOMEONE WOULD HATE ME
AN AMATEUR LIKE ME GOT A ROLE ON A TV DRAMA WITHOUT EVEN TRYING...
BUT... BUT HIKARU-CHAN...
KUROBE-SAN, PLEASE DON'T TELL IZUMI-SAN ANYTHING ABOUT THIS

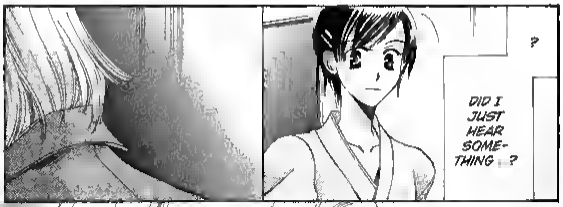
I'M... I'M GOING!!
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
YOUR MAKE-UP IS DONE...
GRIN
RAN...
IZUMI-SAMA IS WAITING FOR HER IN THE STUDIO, CHUM.
SHE'S IN GOOD HANDS...
EVERY-THING'S READY, SO JUST DO YOUR BEST
STAGGER
I WANT UH, TO GET THIS OVER WITH AS FAST AS POSSI-BLE!!
STAGGER
UH... SOB...
FINALLY...
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
...THE DAY... HAS COME...

SST
FINE... BUT BE CAREFUL
I WILL

Izumi Kido-sama
PLEASE RELAX, HIKARU-SAN.
I'M SURE YOU'LL BE FINE
THE NEXT DAY...
WBS

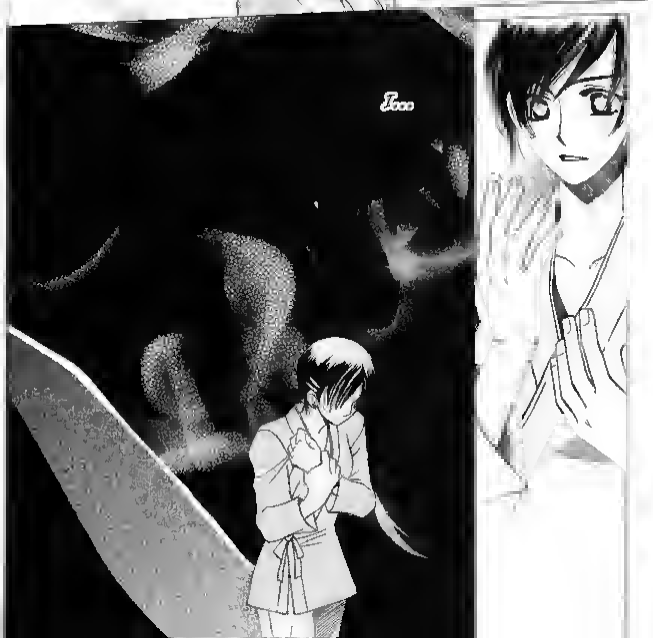

TH-THIS..
LEACH
WHAT!? THEY DID IT TO YOU, TOO?
GASP
SOMEONE HID A NEEDLE IN MY TOWEL..
...It's time for our rehearsal...
UM. EXCUSE ME WHAT'S THE MATTER? BLOOD...
GASP
TAKA-BAYA-SHI-SAN...!

MUMBLE..
JUST AS I THOUGHT
HUH?
THAT DIRTY TRICK... SHE WASN'T THE ONE WHO PLAYED IT ON ME...
YOU MEAN THE SAME THING HAPPENED TO YOU?
UH-HUH


?
DID I JUST HEAR SOME-THING..?

GAH!
WHA--?
IT'S YUUKA NAGAHARA!!

WE HAVE TO KEEP OUR CHINS UP AND NOT LET THEM DRAG US DOWN!
See you at the studio!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM


Eeee

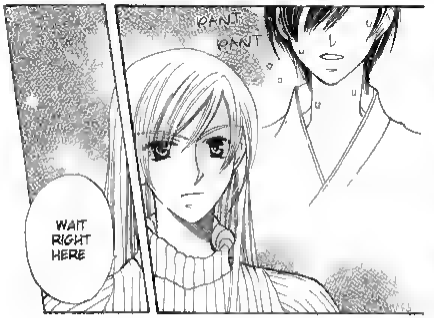
MY AGENT PUT ON A LOT OF PRESSURE TO GET ME ON THIS SHOW. AND I'M SURE HE RUFFLED A LOT OF FEATHERS DOING IT.
WE WERE BOTH CHOSEN TO BE IN DIRECTOR NANJO'S TV SERIES OVER A LOT OF ACTRESSES WHO WOULD DIE TO PLAY OUR ROLES
WHICH MEANS THEY'D PROBABLY KILL FOR THEM, TOO

HUH?
I'M SURE YOU'VE HEARD THE GOSSIP
YOU'VE ALWAYS HAD IT ROUGH, TAKABAYASHI-SAN...

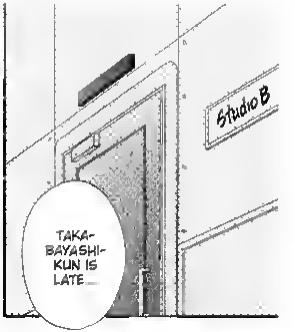
IT'S TERRIBLE
IN THIS BUSINESS, PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS THINKING THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY ACTUALLY TELL YOU TO YOUR FACE
PEOPLE WILL ALWAYS SPECULATE ABOUT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH KIDO-SAN...
...AND HOW YOU GOT YOUR ROLE IT COULD BE A REAL EMBARRASSMENT FOR HER AND NANJO IF PEOPLE BELIEVED HALF THE THINGS SAID ABOUT YOU

PANT
PANT
S-SORRY I'M L-LATE
HIKARU!!

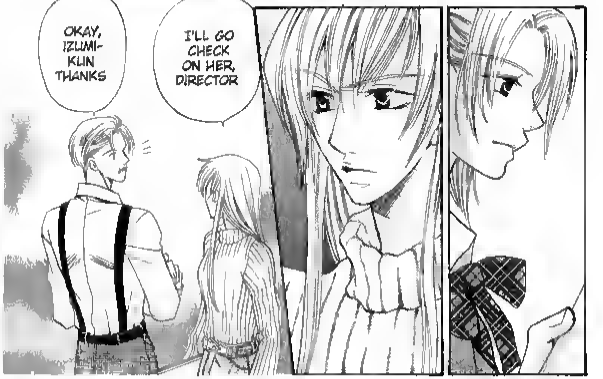
WE APOLOGIZE, DIRECTOR. WE'LL BE BACK IN FIVE MINUTES


PANT
PANT
WAIT RIGHT HERE

SIGH
SHOULD SOMEONE GO LOOK FOR HER?


Studio B
TAKA-BAYASHI-KUN IS LATE...

NO, I HAVEN'T
AH, NAGA-HARA-KUN. HAVE YOU SEEN TAKA-BAYASHI-KUN?


OKAY, IZUMI-KUN THANKS
I'LL GO CHECK ON HER, DIRECTOR

RISE
!?
PUFF
ARGH.
PUFF
WAI--IZUMI-SAN!!
COUGH
COUGH
STOP ACTING SO RIDICULOUS
SERIOUSLY. I'M SO RETARDED
EXCEPT NOW, I KNOW THAT IT'S IMPOSSIBLE FOR ME TO BECOME
AS STRONG AS IZUMI-SAN
I STARTED TO HAVE SOME SCARY THOUGHTS LIKE WHAT IF YOU END UP BEING EMBARRASSED BECAUSE OF ME
..OR WHAT IF I END UP FEELING LIKE AN OUTCAST AGAIN?
IZUMI-SAN, I
TSK. THE MAKE-UP YASUKUNI PUT ON FOR YOU IS STARTING TO GET MESSED UP.
IT REALLY FREAKED ME OUT!
I TRIED HARD TO STAY STRONG
TO NO LONGER SHOW MY WEAKNESS AROUND YOU

IZUMI-SAN WILL ACCEPT ME UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCE
I CAN RELY ON HIM 100% ANY TIME
EVEN THOUGH I MAY NOT BE AS STRONG AS I HAD HOPED TO BE...
HIS BELIEF IN ME IS GETTING ME CLOSER.
THANK YOU, IZUMI-SAN...
NOW I KNOW FOR SURE.
YOU'VE GOT IT ALL BACK-WARDS!
YOU SHOULD FEEL FREE TO SHOW ME WHO YOU REALLY ARE!!
GASP
LISTEN UP, BE-CAUSE THAT'S THE LAST TIME I'M GOING TO SAY IT!
EVEN SO
SMOTHER
I-IZUMI-SAN, IF ANYBODY WERE TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT...
MMPH!

She's not bad...
Impressive.
HUH THIS IS
JEEZ
Then again, it's not like she's trying to become a professional actress...
She needs to play the role as herself.
IT'S LIKE SHE'S PRETENDING TO BE ME IF I WERE PLAYING ASAKO
MUMBLE...
MUMBLE...

ALL OF THAT ASIDE..
Hmm

BECAUSE OF ME..
. MY BROTHER HAS TO WORK DAY AND NIGHT.

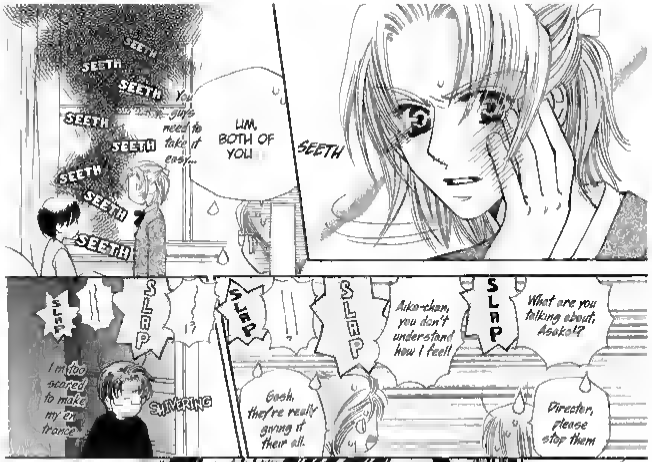
IF I DIDN'T EXIST, MY BROTHER'S LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER.

SHE'S DOING PRETTY WELL
IF ONLY I HAD MY SIGHT...
I'LL BE OKAY. IF I JUST DO IT LIKE IZUMI-SAN SHOWED ME...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ASAKO!?
SLAAAP
THE SHOOT WILL BE OVER BEFORE I KNOW IT...
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU KEIKO!!
WHAT?
YOU MEAN ASAKO, YUUKA-CHAN THE CHARACTER IS ASAKO.
OH— OH MY GOSH—
O, W...
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO PULL THROUGH THIS IF YOU DON'T STAY STRONG?
OUUUCH!!
THROB
OKAY, LET'S DO IT ONE MORE TIME
MY MISTAKE
THROB
IS HE KIDDING!? WE'RE DOING THAT AGAIN!?

SLAP
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ASAKO!?
THIS ISN'T LIKE YOU, ASAKO!!
HOW DO YOU EXPECT TO PULL THROUGH THIS IF YOU DON'T STAY STRONG!?
!!
SLAAAP
THE SPILLED JUICE AND THE NEEDLE...
...AND THE BLOOD ON THE HANDKERCHIEF...
...SHE WAS SETTING ME UP!!

GRIN
I SHOULD'VE KNOWN...
SHE'S ONLY BEEN PRETENDING THAT SHE DOESN'T!
SHE DOES REMEMBER ME!!
TH-THIS GIRL... I KNEW IT! SHE'S...
IN THIS BUSINESS, PEOPLE ARE ALWAYS THINKING THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT THEY ACTUALLY TELL YOU TO YOUR FACE

Tenshi Ja Nai!!
天使じゃない!!
SCENE 19


SEETH
SEETH
SEETH
SEETH
SEETH
SEETH
SEETH
You guys need to take it easy...
Um, both of you!!
SEETH
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
SLAP
I'm too scared to make my an trance
SHIVERING
Aiko-chan, you don't understand how I feel!
What are you talking about, Asako!?
Gosh, they're really going it their all.
Director, please stop them

I'M NOT GOING TO LOSE THIS BATTLE!!

End + Scene 18

I'M IMPRESSED TO KNOW THAT YOU AND NAGAHARA-SAN ARE SUCH PROFESSIONALS!
CHUCKLE
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT YOUR FACES ARE SO SWOLLEN, THEY POSTPONED FILMING
I... I'M SORRY, BUT IZUMI-SA--
STOP
?
EEEEEK!
THAT BEAUTIFUL SMILE... I'M SCARED OF THAT SMILE!
WHAT'S GOING ON TAKABAYASHI?

SumiKko (8 years old), Female
Born on June 10
Dog type (naturally) Pug
She's Hikaru's oasis. She sees Izumi as a rival. And she's in love with Yasukuni...

YANK
WAH!
HUH?

LUNCH BREAK IS ALREADY OVER?
AH, SENSEI.
!
GASP
?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR FACE?
OH— UM, WELL...

MY HAND MOVED ON ITS OWN. HOW!?
STARE
IZUMI-SAN
ROCK
PAPER
ROCK
PAPER

A HOTEL IN TOKYO...

WELL...
I SEE KUROBE-KUN, YOU'RE PLAYING THE ROLE OF A MAN WHO FALLS IN LOVE
THE CHARACTER IN THE SHOW IS AGGRESSIVE. ARE YOU AS AGGRESSIVE IN REAL LIFE?

IT'S JUST.. I THOUGHT IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE NOW, WE'LL BE LATE FOR MY MAGAZINE INTERVIEW
AHHH
GRASP
What's up?
I-IZUMI-SAN?

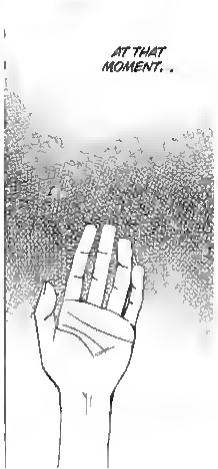
SENSEI, IT WAS NICE TO SEE YOU

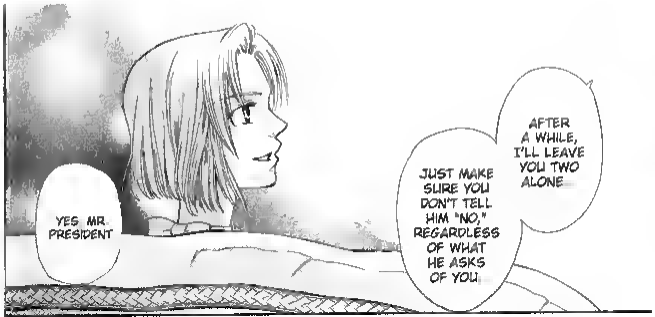
Huh? Izumi-san!?
Tug
Tug

LET'S SEE...
IF A PERSON CAN'T LET GO OF HIS LOVE...
...THEN HE SHOULDN'T GIVE UP ON THAT LOVE, BUT SHOULD FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO OCCUPY HIS ATTENTION

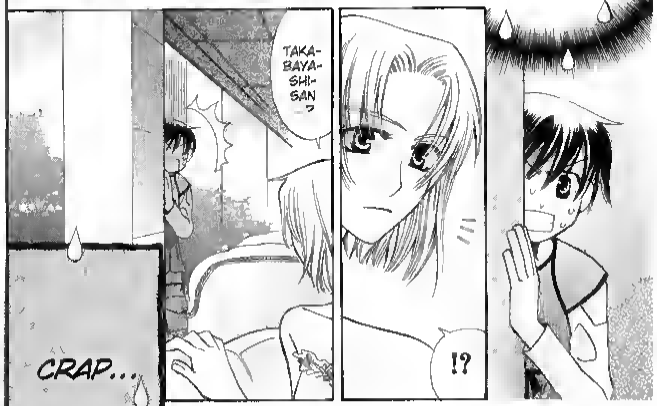
THE HEROINE REJECTS THE MAIN CHARACTER AT FIRST...
WAS IT THAT MUCH OF A SHOCK FOR HIM...?

HOW ABOUT YOU, IZUMI-CHAN?
THE MAIN CHARACTER OF THE DRAMA GETS REJECTED BY HIS LOVER, BUT HE STILL CAN'T GIVE UP HIS FEELINGS FOR HER... CAN YOU SYMPATHIZE WITH HIM?


AT THAT MOMENT...


YES, MR. PRESIDENT
JUST MAKE SURE YOU DON'T TELL HIM "NO," REGARDLESS OF WHAT HE ASKS OF YOU.
AFTER A WHILE, I'LL LEAVE YOU TWO ALONE.

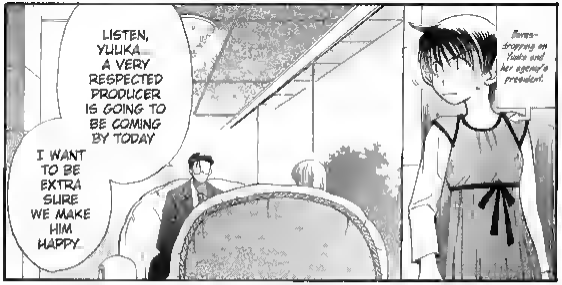
No! No!
SPIN SPIN SPIN
Give it up little girl...
NO MATTER WHAT HE ASKS OF HER! HE CAN'T MEAN --!!


WHAT'S GOING ON HERE!?
TAKA-BAYA-SHI-SAN--?
!?
CRAP...

!?
IT'S HER...!!

PHEW...
I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER THE INTERVIEW WILL LAST...?
SIGH
I WISH IZUMI-SAN WOULD RUN MY LINES WITH ME...

SNEAK SNEAK SNEAK
You can't escape, my dreaded foe!
MY ENEMY, YUUKA NAGAHARA!!


LISTEN, YUUKA A VERY RESPECTED PRODUCER IS GOING TO BE COMING BY TODAY
I WANT TO BE EXTRA SURE WE MAKE HIM HAPPY.
Eavesdropping on Yuuka and her agency's president.

I... I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'D EVEN CONSIDER IT.
YOU'RE SELLING YOURSELF TOO CHEAP.
SNAP
MY BODY IS NOT CHEAP.
...IT...
...IF IT COSTS THAT MUCH TO BE THE NUMBER-ONE ACTRESS IN THE BUSINESS, THEN I'LL PAY THE PRICE

I HAVE A DREAM
I'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE MY DREAM COME TRUE
IZUMI-SAN HAS TOLD ME THE SAME THING BEFORE

WHAT HAPPENED TO YOUR HOBBY OF FOLLOWING IZUMI KIDO AROUND LIKE A PUPPY DOG?
TWIST
Ladies
IT'S A SHAME YOU HAVE NOTHING BETTER TO DO.

I HEARD YOU TALKING ABOUT MEETING A FAMOUS PRODUCER AND MAKING HIM HAPPY
WAS THAT SERIOUS?
I MEAN... I KNOW IT'S NOT REALLY MY PLACE TO JUDGE
ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT WHAT MY AGENT SAID?
THAT GUY'S THE BOSS, AND I'M NOT REALLY IN A PLACE WHERE I CAN REFUSE HIM, EVEN IF IT COMES DOWN TO SEX

OH, GOSH! ARE YOU SAYING OUR LITTLE JOKES CAUSED YOU TRAUMA OR SOMETHING?
SNICKER
NO WONDER YOU'RE STILL HOLDING A GRUDGE!
FLINCH
...!
SERIOUSLY, THAT'S LIKE, ANCIENT HISTORY
tee-hee
YES! YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MY FRIEND!
THEN I MODELED FOR THAT AD CAMPAIGN...
WHY DID YOU RALLY ALL OF OUR CLASSMATES TO PICK ON ME?
HEY, DO YOU EVER MISS IT? THE SCHOOL BATHROOM, I MEAN...
...!
TEE HEE
YOU USED TO GET ALL WEEPY...
...CRAWLING AROUND ON THAT NASTY FLOOR...
HOW... HOW COULD YOU HAVE DONE THAT TO ME?
ARE YOU STILL MAD?

THERE'S NO WAY YOU'RE AS TALENTED AS I AM
YOU SHOULD GET ON YOUR KNEES IN AWE OF MY SKILLS
BAM
BUT...
BUT IT'S NOT...!!

CAN YOU REALLY BLAME ME FOR BEING ANGRY?
I'VE BEEN GOING OUT ON AUDITIONS SINCE I WAS THREE YEARS OLD I'VE ALWAYS WANTED TO BE FAMOUS
ENVY
I TOOK ACTING LESSONS EVERY DAY
ALL BECAUSE YOUR PARENTS HAVE CONNEC-TIONS
THEN BY SOME DUMB LUCK, AN AMATEUR LIKE YOU LANDS A BIG COM-MERCIAL GIG..

BRMMM
WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU'RE AWFULLY QUIET.
HUH?
HIKARU?
?
NOTHING'S WRONG...
RATHER THAN GIVE UP ON MY LOVE, I SHOULD FIND SOMETHING ELSE TO OCCUPY MY ATTENTION...

THIS IS NOT THE BATHROOM THEY TORTURED ME IN...
I KNOW I THAT I M DIFFERENT NOW...
I KNOW MYSELF.

HOW DOES HE ALWAYS KNOW WHAT'S ON MY MIND?
WHENEVER I'M STRESSED OUT
HOLDING HIS HAND IN MINE
DRAINS THE MISERY RIGHT OUT OF ME
WHA--?

EXCUSE ME, DRIVER. PLEASE STOP THE CAR.
GRAB
IZUMI-SAN!?
C'MON LET'S GO
HUH!?
WHOA!
WE'VE GOT TO GET OUT AND GET FRESH AIR ONCE IN A WHILE. OTHERWISE WE'LL GO CRAZY.
THIS ISN'T A GOOD IDEA WE CAN'T GET OUT AT A PLACE LIKE THIS
What if someone sees you...?
IT'S FINE I'M IN DISGUISE

Moisture and shine
beauty
WHOAA...

AT THIS RATE...
I'LL ALWAYS END UP DEPENDING ON HIM
?
She looks amazing as always...
Her skin's so great
LOOK UP, HIKARU
HUH?
OMIGOD... IZUMI-SAN... PEOPLE WILL...
IT'S OKAY... THEY'RE TALKING ABOUT THAT...
I got scared for a sec, too...
GASP
IZUMI KIDO
Did they notice him?

I SOMETIMES WISH...
AT FIRST IT WAS JUST A WAY TO MAKE MONEY
beauty
...I COULD LIVE MY LIFE AS WHO I REALLY AM, AS A MAN.
IT'S INTERESTING TO GET IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA AND PRETEND YOU'RE SOMEONE ELSE AND LEAD A DIFFERENT LIFE...
...BUT I ALWAYS HAVE TO PRETEND I'M A WOMAN

IZUMI-SAN...
MY GOSH, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT...
DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU DO?
LET'S SEE...
...RIGHT NOW, I'M HOLDING HANDS AND WALKING WITH THAT SAME MODEL!

WHAT THE . ?
HE SHOULD WATCH WHERE HE'S GOING
You know?
LAST SPRING, I WAS TALLER THAN HE WAS
...SO HOW DID I NOT NOTICE HE'D GROWN PAST ME?
LET'S GO, HIKARU

IZUMI-SAN
ARE YOU OKAY, HIKARU ?
It...hurt, fuck
...I WISH I COULD'VE SAID THAT TO THAT GUY.
YOU NEED TO LOOK WHERE YOU'RE GOING, JERK!
SERIOUS!!
CRASH
YOW!
TSK
PAY ATTENTION, DAMN IT.
AH, YEAH, I'M FINE
THANK YOU, IZUMI-SA--

I...I KNOW.
YOU'VE GOTTA RELAX, HIKARU
FOCUS, I NEED TO FOCUS!! I NEED TO FORGET ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WITH NAGAHARA AND LET ALL MY WORRIES DISAPPEAR.
WBS
B
YOU NEED TO FIND YOUR OWN VERSION OF ASAKO
JUST RELAX. KEEP IN MIND THAT YOU CAN BE YOURSELF
YOU'RE SO EASILY CONFUSED
Myself? My own? Asako and me?
FSHH
MY OWN

SOMETIMES I'M SO NERVOUS, IT FEELS LIKE ..
.. I'M STANDING WITH SOMEONE I DON'T KNOW

IF I DIDN'T EXIST MY BROTHER'S LIFE WOULD BE SO MUCH EASIER.
IF ONLY I HAD MY SIGHT...
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT, ASAKO!?
SLAP
?
ISN'T THIS THE SCENE WHERE SHE SLAPS HER BACK ?
SHHH

THAT'S IT! I'M DONE GIVING YOU ADVICE!
POKE
OOF
BUT I'LL STILL BE WATCHING YOU.
SHOW ME WHAT YOU'VE GOT
OKAY!
PEOPLE!
LET'S GET STARTED GO!

TOSS
GET OUT!!
GET OUT...
GASP
DROOP
UH.
BANG
GRAB
BY NOT STRIKING BACK,
...SHE EMPHASIZED ASAKO'S EMOTIONAL INSTABILITY AND THE INSECURITY OF BEING ISOLATED.
AKO-CHAN, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND...
...HOW I FEEL...

I'LL ALWAYS BE HERE FOR YOU...
GASP
C-CLIT...
NO! NO!
PHEW...
CLAP CLAP
AMA-ZING
CLAP
CLAP
CLAP
HIKARU-CHAN, YOU THREW IN SO MUCH IMPROV, IT MADE ME NERVOUS!
OH...
GOOD JOB, TAKABA-YASHI-KUN
TAP TAP
THAT WAS AWE-SOME I MEAN IT!
YOU MUST HAVE REHEARSED A LOT
EVEN THE PEOPLE I DON'T KNOW COM-PLIMENTED MY WORK...

...HIC...
I'M SORRY...
HUG
...HIC
ASAKO, IT'S OKAY! YOU'LL BE OKAY!!
GASP
ASAKO!! WHAT WAS THAT NOISE...?
YOU'LL BE FINE, ASAKO
YOUR EYES WILL GET BETTER.

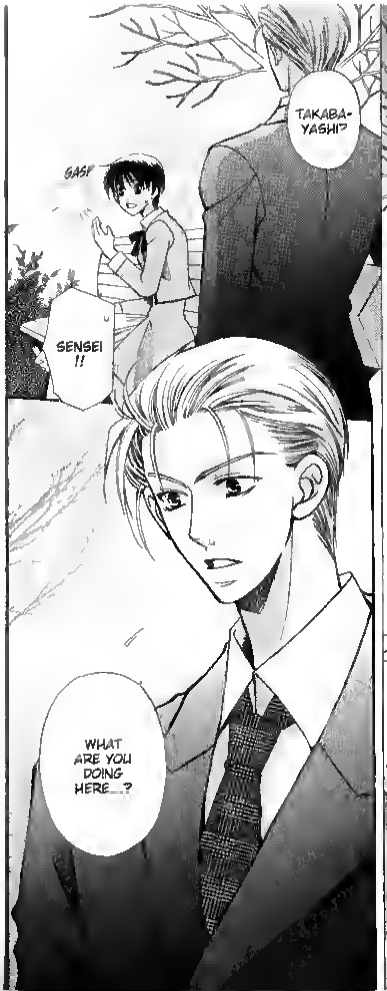
I CAN'T JUDGE IF I REALLY DID BETTER THAN HER.
SHE KNOWS THAT AT YOUR BEST, THE WAY YOU PLAY YOUR ROLE AS ASAKO...
...IS TEN TIMES BETTER THAN HOW SHE PLAYS AIKO...
You were good, too.
WOW!
Good job.
...THAT I'LL NEVER CRAWL ON THE FLOOR AGAIN. NEVER.
I THINK SHE KNOWS NOW, THOUGH...
HOW COULD SHE KNOW!?
YOU WERE LUCKY IT ALL WORKED OUT. DON'T START THINKING IT MEANS YOU'RE ACTUALLY TALENTED
YOU, TOO
NICE WORK
TAK
TAK
TAK

AH HA HA HA
EH!?
HIKARU
HOW DID YOU COME UP WITH ALL OF THOSE AD LIBS? THEY WERE FANTASTIC
...even if they seemed accidental
GET OUT!!
THEN I GOT CARRIED AWAY.
AD LIB OF NOT SLAPPING BACK
AD LIBS THE FIRST ONE WAS THE ONLY IMPROVISATION I'D PLANNED ON DOING...
SHRINK
ACCIDENT
I'm sorry...
I BROKE THE VASE BY ACCIDENT. ISN'T THAT TERRIBLE!?
FEELING GUILTY.
Besides...
YOU DEFEATED HER WITH ACTING, JUST LIKE YOU WANTED.
HUH?
I CAN'T TELL ANYONE IT WAS ALL JUST LUCKY MISTAKES!!
A secret I'll take to my grave...!

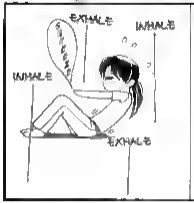
I CAN'T BE DRAWN IN BY HOW BEAUTIFUL HE LOOKS IN STAGE MAKE-UP !!
WH-WHAT DOES HE MEAN BY "REWARD" ...?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
KISS
GRIN
Oh...
AH... A KISS ON THE CHEEK ...?
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
FRIGID
TMI
TMI
TMI
I HATE HER GUTS
I'LL MAKE HER EAT ALL THOSE WORDS!
CALM DOWN
HA!
AND I'LL BE LOOKING DOWN ON YOU JUST LIKE I ALWAYS HAVE
IT WON'T BE LONG BEFORE I'M JAPAN'S MOST FAMOUS ACTRESS
SHALL I REWARD YOU FOR COMPLETING YOUR FIRST SUCCESSFUL SHOOT? EH, HIKARU?
PULL
HUH?
SINCE WE HAVE SOME FREE TIME .

TENSHI JA NAI!!
天使じゃない!!
SCENE20

CUTE HIKARU'S SUCH A SCHWEET WITTLE GIRL
HEE HEE HEE
YOU BASTARD!
I'M SUCH A DORK!!
GOSH, I CAN'T BELIEVE HOW NERVOUS HE WAS MAKING ME...
End of Scene 19



.. BUT I'M SCARED THAT HE'LL HATE ME FOR IT
IT'S ONLY BEEN SIX WEEKS SINCE I STARTED DATING SENSEI
I KNOW I NEED TO TELL HIM THAT I WAS ON THAT TV SHOW, AND THAT I KEPT IT A SECRET FROM HIM...



My Current Addictions #2

Sour Kimchi...ard rare candies I have to place a special order for...etc...

Because I sit all day, every day to do my work, I'm worried about gaining weight. So, I've started exercising in my room and am trying to get ripping six packs...but I have a long way to go!

My Current Addictions #3

While I'm working, if I'm working with my assistants, sometimes we play a game of "Let's remember old anime songs!" The three of us get together, and we all try to remember opening and ending theme songs of anime we used to watch as kids, going for full lyrics and choruses... We play this game while we create manga, and it can get really tough. In an effort to avoid accepting that our brains are deteriorating, we're not allowed to give up

If we can't remember for a while, it gets frustrating, but once we figure it out, it makes us feel good, so...it's an addictive experience.

NOOOO!!
AH... ACTUALLY, I'M A LITTLE FREAKED ABOUT THE UPCOMING EXAM, AND I WAS WONDERING IF YOU COULD HELP ME STUDY FOR IT TONIGHT?
I'M SORRY TO BE SUCH A BOTHER. I KNOW YOU TEACH MUSIC NOT MATH
OKAY, SURE
IDIOT!! I'M SO STUPID
I DON'T HAVE TIME TONIGHT BUT HOW ABOUT MEETING AT 7 O'CLOCK TOMORROW EVENING? I'LL RESERVE A PREP ROOM.

I'M GOING TO TAKE A SHOWER SO THAT I CAN CLEAR MY HEAD.
PTMP
PTMP
TOMORROW! I DEFINITELY HAVE TO TELL HIM TOMORROW!!
SIGH...
SHUT
CLICK
WHA-?
!!?

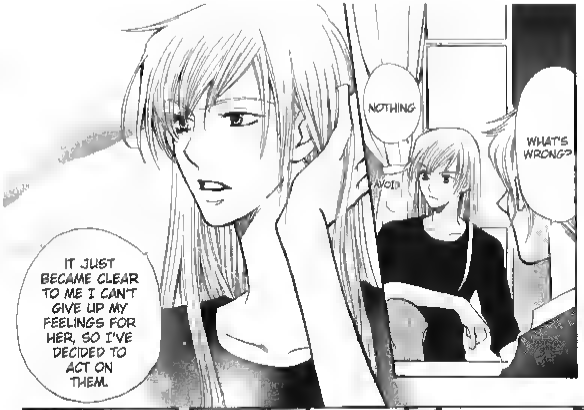
WHEN IT CAME DOWN TO IT, I COULDN'T TELL HIM...
SEE YOU TOMORROW THEN
CREAK
SENSEI

THIS IS...
IT'S WRONG, HIKARU
RIGHT HERE, THIS PROBLEM
IT IS? OH, THANKS
Umm...
I WONDER WHY...
...
...I'M SO NERVOUS AROUND IZUMI-SAN LATELY..
BA-DUM
BA-DUM

SO, SO, SO, SO SORRY, IZUMI-SAN!!
I totally forget to knock!
BAM
OUCH I'M GETTING OUT NOW
YOU PEEPING TOM!
GYAAAAH!!
HE'S NAKED!!
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
BA-DUM
SOS!!
SOS!!
I'M OUT.
I forget to lock the door.
I HAVE TO KEEP IN MIND
.. THE ONE THING THAT MAKES ME ANXIOUS
...EVEN MORE THAN SENSE!

K-CLICK
HEY, YOU TWO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A BREAK?
See Translator's Notes
I'M GOING TO CHECK UP ON SUMIKKO REALLY QUICK
ALL RIGHT
SLAM
NO PROB-LEM
Th-thank you very much.
AH, YASU-KUNI THANKS
I made Aoyi for you to return your beauty
FHEW
THAT WAS AWKWARD
TWITCH
THIS ROOM
HAS IT ALWAYS BEEN THIS SMALL?

I KNOW THAT YOU LOOK AT ME AS A FRIEND.
AND THAT YOU PLACE IMPORTANCE ON MY BEING IN YOUR LIFE.
BUT...
I'M GREEDY, AND I NEED TO BE MORE.
DOES BEING AROUND ME MAKE YOU UNCOMFORTABLE.
...HIKARU?


NOTHING
WHAT'S WRONG?
AOI?
IT JUST BECAME CLEAR TO ME I CAN'T GIVE UP MY FEELINGS FOR HER, SO I'VE DECIDED TO ACT ON THEM.

Well...
THERE'S NOTHING STOPPING ME FROM SEDUCING HER
HYEH...
KNOWING YOU, YOU WOULD TRY SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

IF ANYONE SHOULD BE CONFESSING THEIR LOVE, IT SHOULD BE HER DOING IT TO ME!
WHY SHOULD I HAVE TO CONFESS MY FEELINGS TO A STUPID MUSHROOM LIKE HER!? SHE'S GA-GA OVER SOME LOSER WHO'S DULL, AWKWARD AND ABOVE ALL NOT ME!!
Why should I?!
Stupid mush-room?
BUT YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GA-GA ABOUT HER
ROAR

WE'RE GOING TO HAVE A STUDY SESSION TOGETHER IN OUR ROOM.
BY ANY CHANCE, WOULD YOU LIKE TO JOIN US?
AND THEN MY FRIEND FROM JUNIOR HIGH--
HA HA HA
That's terrible.
HEY, TAKABA-YASHI-SAN. DOES THIS MAKE SENSE TO YOU?
OH, THAT...

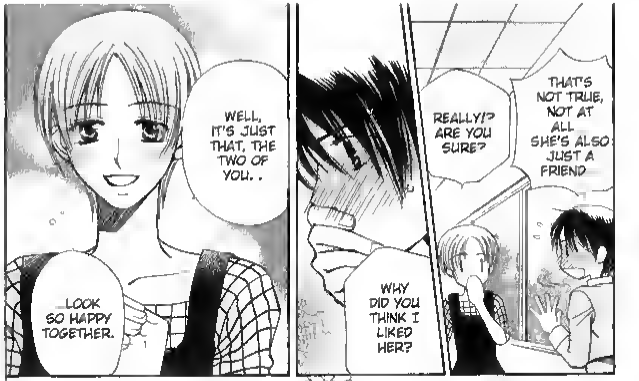
I WON'T BE SATISFIED WITH SIMPLY BEING...
DING DONG
DING DONG
SIGH
TODAY IS THE DAY I FINALLY TELL SENSEI.
TMP TMP
...A COMFORTABLE PLACE FOR YOU TO COME BACK TO.
I NEED TO STAY CALM UNTIL THEN, SO I SHOULD AVOID MY DORM ROOM...
TAKABA-YASHI-SAN?

UMM, TAKABA-YASHI-SAN . . ?
I LIKE YOU, TAKA-BAYASHI-SAN
?

HUH?
UM... I'M SORRY I DIDN'T MEAN TO TELL YOU
SOME-THING SO PERSONAL ALL OF A SUDDEN, BUT...
BUT, UMM
IF YOU'RE NOT SEEING ANYONE AT THE MOMENT...
...CAN WE MAYBE TRY BEING MORE THAN FRIENDS?

I JOINED THESE GUYS BECAUSE I DIDN'T FEEL SAFE GOING BACK TO MY OWN ROOM EVEN SO...

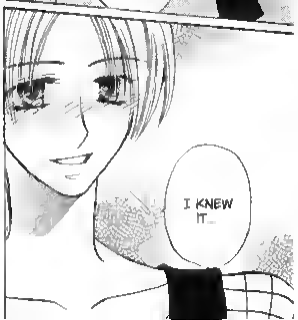
SEE YOU LATER, TAKABA-YASHI-SAN.
...FOR-GETTING ALL THAT...
I'M ENJOYING THEIR COMPANY
IT'S FINE. I HAD A GOOD TIME
I'M SORRY WE CHATTED SO MUCH THAT WE COULDN'T GET AS MUCH STUDYING DONE AS WE HOPED...
TMP TMP
GIGGLE
GIGGLE
Textbook 134
$(x+y)^2$
$x=24 \quad 4=37$
$24 \times 33=$


WELL, IT'S JUST THAT, THE TWO OF YOU..
...LOOK SO HAPPY TOGETHER.
REALLY!? ARE YOU SURE?
THAT'S NOT TRUE, NOT AT ALL SHE'S ALSO JUST A FRIEND
WHY DID YOU THINK I LIKED HER?

I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T REALIZE THAT... YOU HAD SOMEONE ELSE IN YOUR LIFE...
Uhh...
YOU GUYS MAKE A VERY NATURAL COUPLE YOU LOOK GREAT AS A PAIR
IT'S LIKE YOU TWO CREATE A SPECIAL SPACE THAT NOBODY ELSE CAN BREAK INTO

YOU LIKE IZUMI-SAMA, DON'T YOU?
WHAT?

OH...?
I'M SORRY... BECAUSE I REALLY WANT TO STAY YOUR FRIEND...
...I HAVE TO TELL YOU, THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE...


I KNEW IT...

DON'T BE A CHICKEN, HIKARU!!
I'M SORRY!!
THEN WHY DIDN'T YOU JUST TELL ME THE TRUTH FROM THE BEGINNING?
TWITCH
THINGS GOT OUT OF CONTROL
THE ROLE WAS AN OFFER I COULDN'T REFUSE
YOU...
I DIDN'T WANT TO DECEIVE YOU ABOUT IT, I JUST...
DISAPPOINT ME A LITTLE

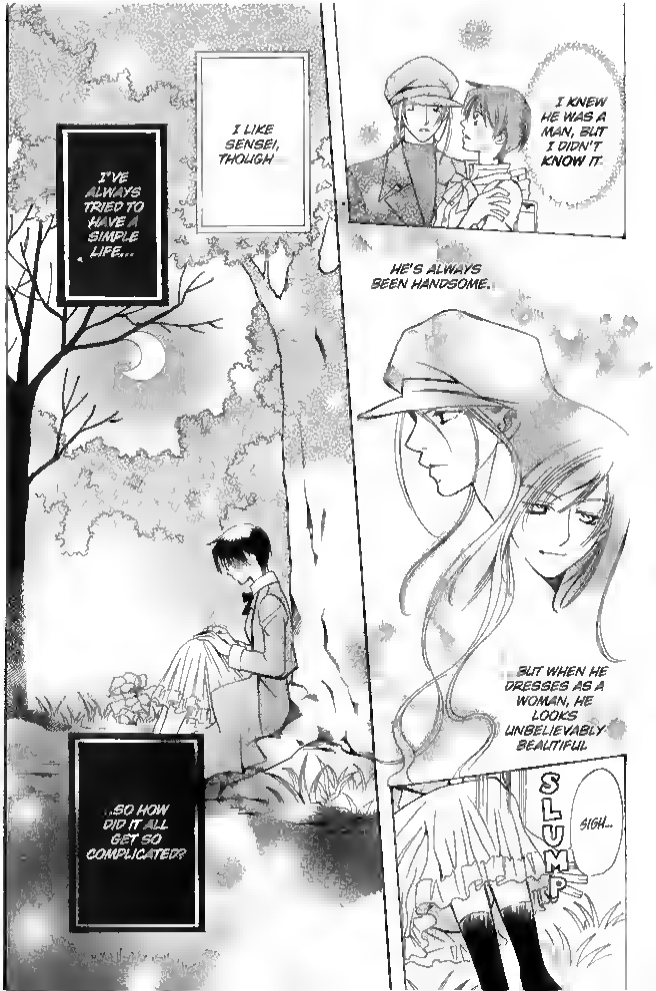
GRIN
I HOPE IT ALL WORKS OUT FOR YOU
THANK YOU...!
SHE'S RIGHT...!! I HAVE TO MAKE MY RELATIONSHIP WORK!

I NEED TO BE SURE SENSEI KNOWS I'M REALLY SORRY
!?
CLICK
I DID THE RIGHT THING BY TELLING HIM THE TRUTH.

IZUMI-SAN!! GO SLEEP IN YOUR OWN BED!!
SHAKE
SHAKE
GRAB
!!
GROPED
Why is he sleeping in my bed?
IZUMI-SAN!?
SNEEZE

NOK NOK
EAST
I'M SORRY.
SENSEI, CAN I TALK TO YOU FOR A SEC?
I...
ERGH!
OH, SURE, NO PROBLEM.
SLIDE
SENSEI, ABOUT THIS PROBLEM...
ALL RIGHT.
TAKABAYASHI, LET'S CONTINUE THIS CONVERSATION SOME OTHER TIME.

SLAP
ばっ
STUPID IZUMI-SAN!
STUPID!
IZUMI-SAN HAS BEEN DRIVING ME CRAZY LATELY!!
MAYBE I WENT TOO FAR..?
GEEZ!! WHY!?
STOP TALKING
WHA—!?
WHY DON'T YOU TAKE A NAP WITH ME?


I'VE ALWAYS TRIED TO HAVE A SIMPLE LIFE...
I LIKE SENSEI, THOUGH
I KNEW HE WAS A MAN, BUT I DIDN'T KNOW IT.
HE'S ALWAYS BEEN HANDSOME.
BUT WHEN HE DRESSES AS A WOMAN, HE LOOKS UNBELIEVABLY BEAUTIFUL
SIGH...
SLUMP
...SO HOW DID IT ALL GET SO COMPLICATED?

HI BLUSH
NO, I TOLD YOU!!
THAT'S NOT TRUE!!
EEP! SORRY
GASP
EVER SINCE THIS BEGAN, IT'S LIKE...

WHY AM I SO UPSET WHEN HE WAS ONLY TEASING?
I NEVER HAD A PROBLEM SHARING A ROOM WITH HIM BEFORE
I WONDER WHY...
YOU LIKE IZUMI-SAMA, DON'T YOU?

PERHAPS SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE ME TONIGHT AFTER ALL...
ARE YOU LOOKING FOR HIKARU-SAN, TOO?
UH... WE WERE SUPPOSED TO MEET TONIGHT. BUT SHE NEVER SHOWED UP. I WENT TO YOUR GUYS' ROOM, BUT SHE WASN'T THERE EITHER...
?
I DON'T BELIEVE THAT'S THE CASE...
HIKARU WOULDN'T FLAKE OUT LIKE THAT UNLESS SOMETHING UNAVOIDABLE HAPPENED...
YOU'RE RIGHT...
WHATEVER YOU DON'T KNOW HER WELL ENOUGH TO KNOW FOR SURE
SHE ESPECIALLY WOULDN'T FLAKE ON YOU...

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE
STUPID HIKARU...
TAKA-BAYA-SHI?
SHE RAN TOWARD THE MOUNTAIN BEHIND THE SCHOOL. BUT WHERE IS SHE HIDING?
OH.

I SUPPOSE
...YOU'RE THE ONE PERSON SHE DOES DEPEND ON, KIDO
THAT'S BECAUSE...
WE'RE "FRIENDS."

KIDO... WHAT KIND OF GIRL IS HIKARU?
I GUESS
SHE'S TOO INDEPENDENT TO RELY ON ANYONE. WHICH IS WHY IT'S IRONIC THAT SHE GETS LONELY SO EASILY. SHE GETS TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF BECAUSE OF HER SHYNESS... SHE'S KIND OF A FIXER-UPPER...
FWISH
I SEE
GRIN
STUNNED

UH...
GASP
I WAS CONCERNED ABOUT YOU, TAKABA-YASHI...
DARN, DARN!
I TOTALLY FORGOT THAT I PROMISED SENSEI WE WOULD MEET TONIGHT
!?
AHH
IZUMI-SA--
HIKARU!!
SENSEI, SHE'S DIED HERE.

SENSEI!
THE WHOLE TV DRAMA DEBACLE IS OVER AND DONE ALREADY
I CAN'T CHANGE THAT...
GRIP
YOU HAD ME WORRIED.

BUT IF SOMETHING LIKE THAT EVER HAPPENS AGAIN...
YOU NEED TO TRUST ME MORE. YOU KNOW I'D BE THERE FOR YOU
SU-SURE

I'M NOT TOO THRILLED ABOUT YOU WANDERING AROUND AFTER DARK LIKE THIS...
CHU?
I WAS REALLY WORRIED TOO, HIKARU.

YOU'RE HAVING SENSEI HELP YOU WITH YOUR HOMEWORK, RIGHT?
CAN I TAG ALONG?
I can, right?
GRIN
LEAN
すい
BY THE WAY, HIKARU--
WH-WHAT IS IT!?
BA-DUM

BUZZ BUZZ
EH!? EH!?
COOL! LEMME JUST GRAB MY BOOKS!
WHY WOULD HE WANNA COME...?
SU-SURE

...BUT I GENUINELY LIKE SENSEI
IT'S COMPLICATED AND IT GETS HARD SOMETIMES, BUT--
--THAT'S LOVE.
IT'S NEVER AS SIMPLE AS WE THINK...

OF COURSE!
I EXPECT YOU TO MAKE IT UP TO ME.
I DIDN'T GET MY MADELEINES THE OTHER DAY, SO I EXPECT A SPECIAL BATCH.
I GET NERVOUS AROUND IZUMI-SAN.

A LETTER
?
THIS IS...
WOBBLE
SMASH
CRICK
SENSEI, HERE'S THE TEA

SENSEI...
...PLEASE ACCEPT THESE MADELEINES.
GRRN
WHA-?
IF WE DON'T LEAVE NOW, WE'LL MISS THE TEST...
I ALSO BROUGHT YOU SOME TEA THAT WILL GO WELL WITH THEM.
OH, THANKS.
FORGET IT, LET'S GO
I DIDN'T GET A CHANCE TO GIVE HIM THE TEA YET...
HEH HEY, DON'T SHOVE ME, IZUMI-SAN.
HIKARU

Afterword and Special Thanks!

I'd like to thank everyone who read Tenshi Ja Nai!! Vol 4! And I'd like to tell those of you who sent me letters, and those who visited my webpage, that you've been a great encouragement to me. ♡

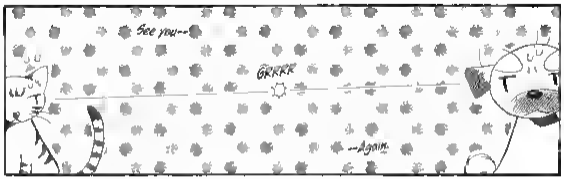
And, as always, Hariguchi-san & Kashiwabara-san, who assist me with my art, and my editor Sugawara-san: I'd like to thank you all very much.

Also, I'd like to thank my family and friends who let me relax from time to time. [laugh]

October 13, 2004

Takako Shigematsu

I look forward to hearing from you.
http://www5b.biglobe.ne.jp/~taka_s/index.html



- The end of Tenshi Ja Nai!! volume 4 -

Tenshi Ja Nai Volume 5
Available November 2006

Translator's Notes

Pg. 30 -- *Norrītsukkomī*

A style of duo comedy popular in the Kansai region. One comedian will set up the gag, to which the other will play right into—or in this case walk right into—only to pull out in a frantic display shortly after. Though Kurobe-san's not doing this intentionally here, it sure would make for a good set-up nonetheless.

Pg. 31 -- Game-show prop

What kind of game-show involves giant bowling balls, you might ask! On some Japanese game shows, failure to answer the questions correctly can result in outrageous punishments for the entertainment of audience and competing contestants alike. From being put in a ring with a sumo wrestler to being chased by a giant bowling ball, anything can happen on Japanese game shows.

Pg. 31 -- *Dokkīrī*

The Japanese version of "candid camera" in which innocent civilians get set-up in outrageous situations only to have their frazzled, confused responses caught on tape. Getting run over by a giant bowling ball is a perfect example.

Pg. 91 -- Kansai accent

The dialect spoken in the Kansai region of Japan is generally characterized as being both more melodic and more "harsh" by speakers of the standard language. It is also closely associated with comedy hence its presence in manga and other forms of entertainment.

Pg. 124 -- *Ossu*

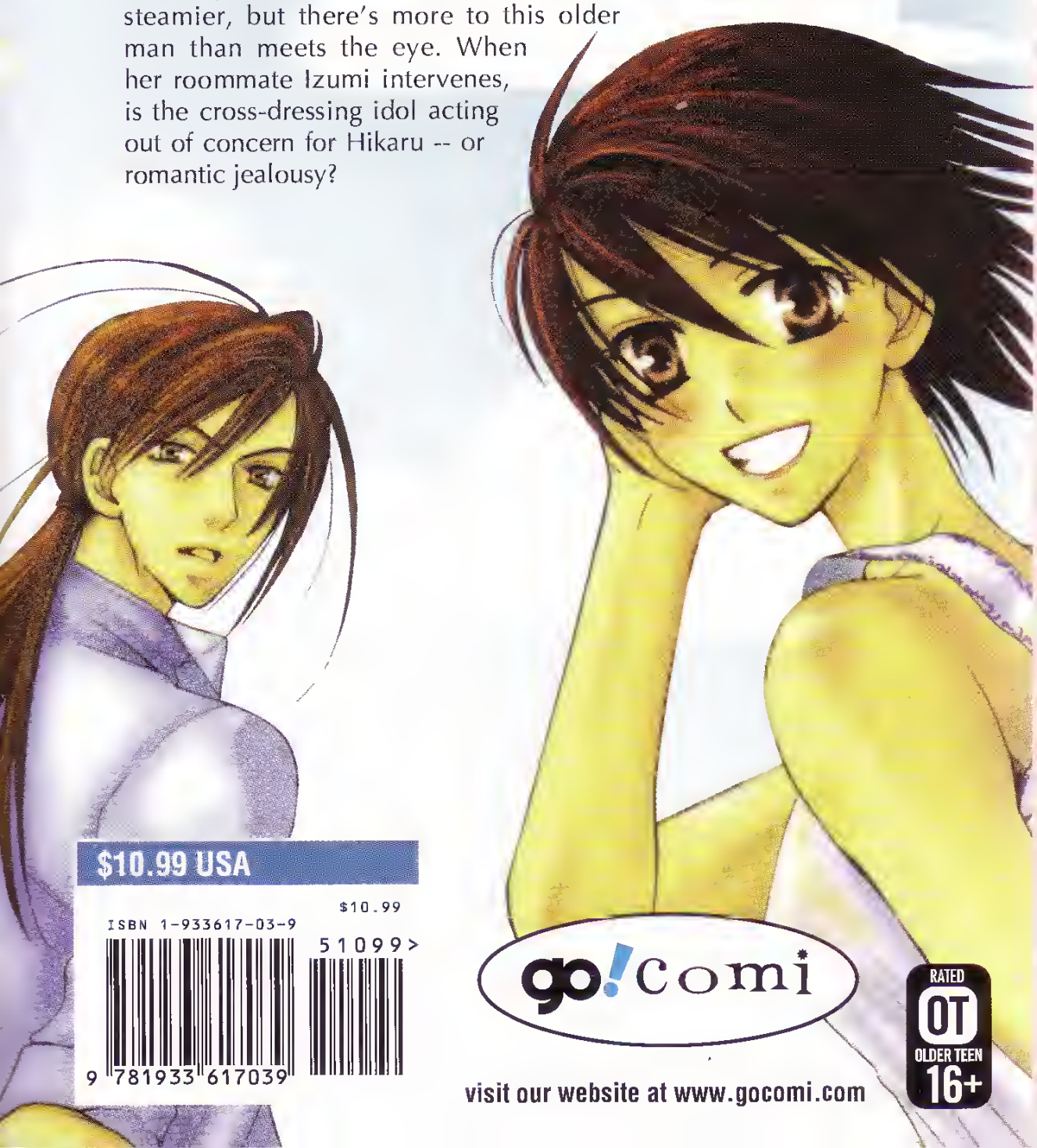
An everyday greeting between male friends but originally a salutation between samurai. Keeping that history in mind, Hikaru's use of it demonstrates her fighting spirit.

Pg. 161-- *Aojiru*

A juice made completely from tree kale leaves. With its 40 vitamins and minerals per serving, it is an all around nutritious drink with new benefits being discovered daily.

TENSHI JA NAI!

In the play of life, all Hikaru Takabayashi wanted was to be part of the scenery. But ever since she transferred to the prestigious all-girls' Seika Academy, Hikaru has been living in the spotlight, with scandal on every side! Hikaru's crush on her sexy teacher Ayase is getting steamier, but there's more to this older man than meets the eye. When her roommate Izumi intervenes, is the cross-dressing idol acting out of concern for Hikaru -- or romantic jealousy?



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